IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as noted in the claim listing below:

1-56. (Canceled)

57. (Currently Amended) A video program production system for use in producing a video program, comprising a composition table ~~providing apparatus~~ site, and a plurality of terminals including program content gathering and program production terminals communicable with the composition table ~~providing apparatus~~ site, respective terminals being associated with and operated by respective operating groups to perform respective, different work assignments in accordance with a production schedule and instructions in said composition table,

wherein the composition table ~~providing apparatus~~ site comprises:

a video program database for storing video program content data inputted from said program content gathering and program production terminals,

storage means for storing composition table data containing updatable information describing successive tasks to be performed and completed by different ones of said operating groups required for the production of said video program, said composition table data storing said video program production schedule and said instructions for the respective operating groups, and said composition table data storing links to the video program content data stored in said video program database, and

control means for providing the composition table data to each of the terminals, including the information describing tasks to be performed and tasks completed by said different operating groups for viewing at each terminal, and for processing information input from the terminals to be added to the composition table data; and

wherein each terminal <u>associated with and operated by each said operating group</u>

comprises:

acquisition means for acquiring the composition table data by communicating

with the composition table providing apparatus,

display means for displaying the composition table data acquired by the

acquisition means, including the tasks to be performed and the tasks completed by respective

groups,<u> such that the display means at the terminal of one operating group displays the tasks</u>

<u>completed by said one operating group as well as the tasks completed by other operating groups,</u>

input information generating means for generating information to be input to said

composition table, said input information including end of task data representing the completion

of the task performed by a respective <u>the operating</u> group <u>associated with said terminal</u>, and

input information transmitting means for transmitting the input information<u> from</u>

<u>said input information generating means</u> to the composition table <s>providing apparatus</s><u>site</u> to

update the composition table that is stored<u> at the composition table site</u> and <u>that is</u> displayed at

<u>all of</u> the terminals,

whereby the terminals operated by all of said operating groups display the

composition table updated by different ones of said operating groups and thereby the status of all

of said operating groups; and

whereby the display at a terminal <u>associated with one operating group</u> of said end

of task data input in said composition table data from a different operating group instructs <s>a</s> <u>said</u>

<u>one</u> group to perform the next successive task <u>in the work assignment performed by said one</u>

<u>group</u> following the task <u>in the production schedule</u> that has been completed by said different

operating group<u>, as determined by said composition table.</u>

58. (Currently Amended) A video program production system for use in producing a

video program, comprising a composition table ~~providing apparatus~~ site, and a plurality of

terminals including A/V content gathering and A/V editing terminals communicable with the

composition table ~~providing apparatus~~site, respective terminals being associated with and

operated by respective operating groups to perform respective, different work assignments in

accordance with a production schedule and instructions in said composition table,

wherein the composition table ~~providing apparatus~~ site comprises:

storage means for storing composition table data containing updatable

information describing audio and video (A/V) gathering and editing tasks to be performed and

completed by A/V content gathering and A/V editing operating groups required for the

production of said video program,

an A/V database for storing audio and video content for said video program,

said composition table data storing said video program production schedule and

said instructions for the respective operating groups, and said composition table data including

links to said audio and video content in said A/V database, and

control means for providing the composition table data to the terminals, including

the information describing tasks to be performed and tasks completed by said A/V content

gathering and A/V editing operating groups for viewing at each terminal, and for processing

information input from the terminals to be added to and update the composition table data; and

wherein each terminal associated with and operated by each said operating group

comprises:

acquisition means for acquiring the composition table data by communicating

with the composition table providing apparatus,

display means for displaying the composition table data acquired by the

acquisition means, including the A/V content gathering and editing tasks performed and

completed by said operating groups, and for displaying said audio and video information when a

link thereto in said composition table data is selected, such that the display means at the terminal

of one operating group displays the tasks completed by said one operating group as well as the

tasks completed by other operating groups,

input information generating means for generating information to be input to said

composition table, said input information including end of task data representing the completion

of the task performed by a respective the operating group associated with said terminal, and

input information transmitting means for transmitting the input information from

said input information generating means to the composition table providing apparatus site to

update the composition table that is stored at the composition table site and that is displayed at

the terminals,

whereby the terminals operated by all of said operating groups display the

composition table updated by said operating groups and thereby the status of all of said operating

groups; and

whereby the display at a terminal associated with one operating group of

information input in said composition table data from a respective different group representing

the completion of a task by said respective different group instructs another group to perform the

next successive task in the production schedule following the task that has been completed by

said different operating group, as determined by said composition table.

59. (Currently Amended) A video program production system for use in producing a video program, comprising a composition table ~~providing apparatus~~ site, and a plurality of terminals including program content gathering and program production terminals communicable with the composition table ~~providing apparatus~~ site, respective terminals being associated with and operated by respective operating groups to perform respective, different work assignments in accordance with a production schedule and instructions in said composition table,

wherein the composition table ~~providing apparatus~~ site comprises:

a video program database for storing video program content data inputted from said program content gathering and program production terminals,

storage means for storing composition table data containing information describing successive tasks to be performed and completed by different ones of said operating groups required for the production of said video program, said composition table data storing said video program production schedule and said instructions for the respective operating groups, said composition table data storing links to the video program content data stored in said video program database, and said composition table data further containing updateable items, with each operating group having authorization to ~~access and~~ update only certain predetermined ones of said updatable items, and

control means for providing the composition table data to each of the terminals, including the information describing tasks to be performed and tasks completed by said different operating groups for viewing at each terminal, and for processing said certain predetermined updatable items, input from the terminals of those authorized operating groups, to be added to the composition table data; and

wherein each terminal <u>associated with and operated by each said operating group</u> comprises:

acquisition means for acquiring the composition table data by communicating with the composition table providing apparatus,

display means for displaying the composition table data acquired by the acquisition means, including the tasks to be performed and the tasks completed by respective authorized operating groups<u>, such that the display means at the terminal of one operating group displays the tasks completed by said one operating group as well as the tasks completed by other operating groups,</u>

access means for enabling said terminal to access and add to said composition table data only certain predetermined updatable items from the authorized operating group,

input information generating means for generating updatable items to be input to said composition table, said input information including end of task data representing the completion of the task performed by ~~a respective~~ <u>the</u> operating group <u>associated with said terminal</u>, and

input information transmitting means for transmitting the updatable items <u>from said input information generating means</u> to the composition table ~~providing apparatus~~ <u>site</u> so as to update the composition table <u>that is stored at the composition table site and</u> that is displayed at <u>all of</u> the terminals,

whereby the terminals operated by all of said operating groups display the composition table updated by different ones of said operating groups and thereby the status of all of said operating groups; and

whereby the display at a terminal <u>associated with one operating group</u> of said end of task data input in said composition table data from a different operating group instructs <s>a</s> <u>said</u> <u>one</u> group to perform the next successive task <u>in the work assignment performed by said one</u> <u>group</u> following the task <u>in the production schedule</u> that has been completed <u>by said different</u> <u>operating group, as determined by said composition table</u>.

60. (Currently Amended) A video program production system for use in producing a video program, comprising a composition table <s>providing apparatus</s> <u>site</u>, and a plurality of terminals including A/V content gathering and A/V editing terminals communicable with the composition table <s>providing apparatus</s> <u>site</u>, respective terminals being <u>associated with and</u> operated by respective operating groups <u>to perform respective, different work assignments in</u> <u>accordance with a production schedule and instructions in said composition table,</u>

wherein the composition table <s>providing apparatus</s> <u>site</u> comprises:

storage means for storing updatable composition table data containing updatable information describing audio and video (A/V) gathering and editing tasks to be performed and completed by A/V content gathering and A/V editing operating groups required for the production of said video program,

an A/V database for storing audio and video content for said video program,

said composition table data <u>storing said video program production schedule and</u> <u>said instructions for the respective operating groups, and said composition table data</u> including links to said audio and video content in said A/V database, and

control means for providing the composition table data to each of the terminals, including the information describing tasks to be performed and tasks completed by said A/V

content gathering and A/V editing operating groups for viewing at each terminal, and for

updating said composition table data with information input from at least some of the terminals;

and

wherein each terminal associated with and operated by each said operating group

comprises:

acquisition means for acquiring the composition table data by communicating

with the composition table providing apparatus,

display means for displaying the composition table data acquired by the

acquisition means, including the A/V content gathering and editing tasks performed and

completed by said operating groups, such that the display means at the terminal of one operating

group displays the tasks completed by said one operating group as well as the tasks completed by

other operating groups, and

retrieving means for retrieving from said A/V database said audio and video

information when a displayed link thereto in said composition table data is selected,

and wherein the terminal used by an edit operating group includes means

for performing an edit operation on at least said retrieved video information in accordance with

said information in said displayed composition table data describing said editing tasks, thereby

producing edited video information,

input information generating means for generating edit information

describing said edit operation to be input to said composition table, said input information

including end of task data representing the completion of the task performed by the edit

operating group, and

transmitting means for transmitting the edit information and end of task

data from said input information generating means to the composition table providing apparatus

site for updating said composition table data that is stored at the composition table site and that is

displayed at all of the terminals,

whereby the terminals operated by all of said operating groups display the

composition table updated by said edit operating group; and

whereby the display at a terminal associated with another group of

information input in said composition table data from said edit operating group representing the

completion of a task by said edit operating group instructs another said other group to perform

the next successive task in the work assignment performed by said other group following the task

in the production schedule that has been completed by said edit operating group, as determined

by said composition table.

61. (Currently Amended) A terminal for use by and associated with a respective

operating group in a video program production system to communicate with a composition table

providing apparatus site via a network, wherein at least program content gathering and program

production groups communicate with said composition table providing apparatus site and

perform successive operations different work assignments in accordance with a production

schedule and instructions in said composition table to produce said video program, said terminal

comprising:

acquisition means for acquiring a composition table containing information

describing successive tasks to be performed and completed by said program content gathering

and program production groups required for the production of said video program, said

composition table storing said video program production schedule and said instructions for the

respective operating groups, and said composition table data storing links to video program

content data stored in a video program database and inputted from said program content

gathering and program production groups,

display means for displaying the acquired composition table, including the tasks

to be performed and the tasks completed by both said respective group and by other groups, such

that the display means at the terminal of one operating group displays the tasks completed by

said one operating group as well as the tasks completed by other operating groups,

input information generating means for generating information to be input to said

composition table, said input information including end of task data representing the completion

of the task performed by said respective operating group associated with said terminal, and

input information transmitting means for transmitting the input information from

said input information generating means to the composition table providing apparatus site to

update the composition table that is stored at the composition table providing apparatus site and

that is displayed on all of the terminals used by the groups,

whereby the terminals used by all of said operating groups display the

composition table updated by different ones of said operating groups and thereby the status of all

of said operating groups; and

whereby the display at a terminal associated with one operating group of said end

of task data input in said composition table from a different operating group instructs a said one

group to perform the next successive task in the work assignment performed by said one group

following the task in the production schedule that has been completed by said different operating

group, as determined by said composition table.

62. (Currently Amended) A terminal for use by and associated with a respective one of several operating groups in a video program production system to communicate with a composition table ~~providing apparatus~~ site via a network, wherein at least program content gathering and program production groups communicate with said composition table ~~providing apparatus~~ site and perform successive ~~operations~~ different work assignments in accordance with a production schedule and instructions in said composition table to produce said video program, said terminal comprising:

acquisition means for acquiring a composition table containing information describing successive tasks to be performed and completed by at least said program content gathering and program production groups required for the production of said video program, said composition table storing said video program production schedule and said instructions for the respective operating groups, and said composition table data storing links to video program content data stored in a video program database and inputted from said program content gathering and program production groups, said composition table further containing updatable items, with each operating group having authorization to ~~access and~~ update only certain predetermined ones of said updatable items,

display means for displaying the acquired composition table, including the tasks to be performed and the tasks completed by all of the authorized operating groups, such that the display means at the terminal of one operating group displays the tasks completed by said one operating group as well as the tasks completed by other operating groups,

access means for enabling said terminal to ~~access and~~ add to said composition

table only certain predetermined updatable items from the authorized operating group,

input information generating means for generating updatable items to be input to

said composition table, said input information including end of task data representing the

completion of the task performed by ~~a~~ said respective group associated with said terminal, and

input information transmitting means for transmitting the updatable items from

said input information generating means to the composition table ~~providing apparatus~~ site for

updating the composition table that is stored at the composition table site and that is displayed on

all of the terminals used by the groups,

whereby the terminals operated by all of said operating groups display the

composition table updated by different ones of said authorized operating groups and thereby the

status of all of said operating groups; and

whereby the display means at said terminal associated with one operating group

displays the completion of a task performed by ~~one~~ another, different operating group to instruct

~~another,~~ said one operating group to perform the next successive task in the work assignment

performed by said one operating group following the task in the production schedule that has

been completed by said different group, as determined by said composition table.

63. (Currently Amended) A terminal for use by an edit operating group in a video

program production system to communicate with a composition table ~~providing apparatus~~ site

and with an audio/video (A/V) database, said terminal comprising:

acquisition means for acquiring a composition table containing updatable

information describing (A/V) gathering and editing tasks to be performed and completed by at

least A/V content gathering and A/V editing operating groups required for the production of a

video program, said composition table <u>storing a video program production schedule and</u>

<u>instructions for the respective operating groups to perform successive different work assignments</u>

<u>in accordance with said production schedule and said instructions, and said composition table</u>

further containing links to audio and video information in said A/V database,

display means for displaying the acquired composition table, including the A/V

content gathering and editing tasks performed and completed by said A/V content gathering and

A/V editing operating groups, <u>such that the display means at the terminal of one operating group</u>

<u>displays the tasks completed by said one operating group as well as the tasks completed by other</u>

<u>operating groups,</u>

retrieving means for retrieving from said A/V database said audio and video

information when a displayed link thereto in said composition table is selected,

means for performing an edit operation on at least said retrieved video

information in accordance with said information in said displayed composition table describing

said editing tasks, thereby producing edited video information,

edit information generating means for generating edit information describing said

edit operation to be input to said composition table and end of task data representing the

completion of the task performed by the edit operating group, and

transmitting means for transmitting the edit information and end of task data <u>from</u>

<u>said edit information generating means</u> to the composition table ~~providing apparatus~~<u>site</u> for

updating said composition table<u> stored at said composition table site,</u>

whereby the terminals operated by all of said operating groups display the

composition table updated by said edit operating<u> group</u>; and

whereby the display means at said ~~terminal~~ terminals operated by all of said

operating groups display ~~displays~~ the completion of a task performed by the edit operating group

to instruct another, different operating group to perform the next successive task in the work

assignment performed by said different group following the task in the production schedule that

has been completed by said edit operating group, as determined by said composition table.